

REYNOLDS KNIGHT

New Push-Button and Automaton Theories Outlined by Reporter

Belief is growing among economists that 1954 is even a better year than government figures show. They argue principally from the rise in consumer expenditures in the third quarter of the year. Not only did these rise, at the rate of some \$1.5 billion a year, but the increase was concentrated in services and non-durable goods.

may have been low, several suggestions are made: Do-it-yourselfers, for all the fun that is poked at them, do add to their incomes by their crafts; hidden price cuts are being made in the form of better goods for the same money; productivity gains are larger than the statisticians realize.

This year, when the figures are in, may prove to have seen more consumer spending than last year.

PUSHING ISN'T ENOUGH—Most of us use the concepts "automaton" and "pushbutton" as almost exactly the same, an eminent engineer said the other day, when they are really very far apart.

The engineer was Fredric O. Hess, president of a Philadelphia heat development engineering firm, and he was addressing the Metals Congress in Chicago. "In actual practice" he said, "push-buttons" give on-and-off control, which does not satisfy in automatic heat processing.

Gas, declared Mr. Hess, can be controlled to center on an ideal set of conditions, infinitely more flexible than the mere interruption of heat supplied by some other fuel under on-and-off alternations.

He cited a recent gas-fueled steel plant installation which makes possible continuous welding of line pipe and continuous short-cycle normalization at a speed of 100 feet per minute for eight-inch pipe.

THINGS TO COME—Sleeping bags, in the form of jungle animals whose heads are pillows are in the Christmas market, supposed to help reconcile the 2-to-6-year-old to nap-taking. Those numbered paintings kits now come in a three-dimensional variety in wood-barellel.

A small slide rule has a mechanical pencil built in so the engineer or accountant can write down his calculations as fast as he makes them. A new electric scissors fits the

palm of the hand and vibrates 14,400 times a minute.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING—Stores everywhere mark the day after Thanksgiving as the first day of the Christmas shopping season, although some prudent shoppers began squirreling away gifts last summer. This year the kickoffs had varying success. New York stores showed a rise of 6 per cent from the year-before figure for the week ending Nov. 27; in Los Angeles the week showed a 7.3 per cent decline.

The picture in New York was clouded by the fact that two-thirds of the increase was credited to the going-out-of-business sale of John Wanamaker's main store, which will close about Jan. 1.

The week which has just closed, for which figures won't be available until late this week, will be the first full post-Thanksgiving shopping week, and store operators and their suppliers will await the results eagerly.

BITS O' BUSINESS—Wholesale prices fell 2 per cent in the last week reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Farm prices were off 1.1 per cent. Steel production in the week ended Dec. 4 hit 80.5 per cent. The Department of Agriculture forecast a 4 per cent decline in farm income in 1955.

12-Year-Old Wins Contest—Lynne McFarland, of 22606 Doble Ave., won a new bicycle Saturday as first prize in the Jim Dandy coloring contest.

Manager "Shorty" Modeland said that the 12-year-old girl's winning entry would be sent in to the market's national competition for a possible \$5000 savings bond or four-year college scholarship.

Second prize, an electric train, went to James Lee Cole, of 1508 Elm Ave., while Jimmy Carter, of 2422 Arlington Ave., took third prize, an erector set.

Other winners were Pam Milligan, of 5007 Torrance Blvd.; Jim Biller, of 24911 Walnut St. Lomita; Judith Osborn, of 1122 Patronella St.; Jo Beth Jackson, of 3480 Del Amo Blvd.; Christine Moore, of 810 Faysmith Ave.; Archie Turner, of 3350 Torrance Blvd.; and Jessie Lou Ingram, of 2008 W. 231st St.

Folding Table Taken—An airplane generator valued at \$30 was taken from the Torrance Airport, Manager E. Dietrich, reported to police.

Compton, always a threat in CIF circles, smashed Cathedral, 27-6, Monday night to keep their place in the playoffs.

Semifinal Play In CIF Friday—Semifinal play in the CIF football playoffs will continue tomorrow night, as Santa Monica trips to Glendale to meet Glendale-Hoover and Centennial travels to Compton to meet the Tarbabes. All are Central Group playoff titles.

The Samohi crew nipped out a 14-13 win over San Diego to stay in the race, while the Apaches whipped Montebello 21 to 9.

Torrance Cagers In Pacific Hoop Tourney at MC

Torrance varsity cagers jump into the thick of it again this evening, as they go into the second round of play in the Pacific Shores Basketball Tournament at Mira Costa High School.

Coach George Stanich will be working Sterling Brown and Barrett Lee overtime in the tourney, with both boys rated sparkers for the local crew.

Other starters include Jim Lawrence, Bob Boss and Denny Hester.

The Pacific tourney will conclude Saturday, with final games being played on the Redondo High gymnasium boards.

From the rocks in Palos Verdes, Barry Barnett, Ray and Fred, took limits of goods size 2 and 3 pounds, besides tangling with a few they couldn't stop.

Surf fishing at White Sands and Hollywood Beach Sunday, Carl Hanni, Abe and Al Coast landed limits over 10 inches.

Presentation of trophies to deserving members of the Deceyler Car Club of Torrance will be made at a dinner meeting of combined car clubs and the Peace Officers Car Assn., Monday, at the Lynwood Recreation Center.

Fred Andrews, of 113 E. Carson St., president of the Deceyler, said awards and movies of club activities will be shown.

Sgt. Bill Evans, Torrance police department, is an official of the Peace Officer's organization, and will take part in activities at the Dec. 13 meet.

ROD & GUN Chatter

The second half of the split waterfowl season, running until Jan. 10, opened noon Monday after a slight touch of winter made prospects somewhat brighter.

Big wheel for next year of the Gardena Rod and Gun Club, Jack Pollock, elected Monday night at their annual steak and bean dinner and election.

Speaking of the steak and bean dinner, at the Torrance Rod and Gun's dinner last Thursday night Al Coast, who was on the losing team and was supposed to eat beans, ended up with the juiciest, thickest steak you ever saw.

Surf fishing again hitting good all up and down the coast, along with nice bottom fish taken off the barges and boats.

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